Observations of meteors form one branch of astronomy in which the amateur can greatly aid the professional stargazers, for to find the exact path of a meteor, to tell how high it was when it first began to glow and to determine the direction from which it was coming, requires a large number of observations. Dr. Willard J. Fisher, of the Harvard College Observatory, is studying meteors and has received many valuable reports from persons who are not astronomers.

A good way of obtaining an accurate, and permanent, record, is by the use of photography, and the better the camera, and the faster the lens and the plate or film, the more meteors may be caught. At the Harvard Observatory the sky is photographed in sections every clear night, so that hundreds of thousands of plates have been obtained. On many of these Dr. Fisher has found trails of previously unnoticed meteors, but the amateur photographer can in many cases get records just as good.

Though the greatest display is on May 5, the meteors may be seen from April 29 to May 8, and on any of these nights it may pay you to try your hand at photographing meteors with your kodak.

The camera must be on some firm support, as a tripod, and pointed to the north-eastern sky, the lens being opened to the widest extent. Keep the shutter opened for an hour at a time, between changing the film, and note the exact standard times of opening and closing the shutter. The Harvard College Observatory, at Cambridge, Mass., is always glad to get such negatives, because even though they may not seem to show any meteors, the keen eyes of the astronomers may find some. In this way, you may help astronomers to learn more of these bodies which float into the earth's environs from outside space.

MEASLES PREVENTIVE AND CURE NOW ASSURED

Measles will become one of the preventable diseases in the very near future. The latest of medical achievements bids fair to bring this epidemic disease of childhood under partial control at least.

The discovery of a streptococcus that causes measles by Dr. N. S. Ferry and L. W. Fisher of Detroit has been announced by the American Medical Association. This organism produces a soluble toxin that can be used in the production of antitoxin on a large scale. This antitoxin, which consists of horse serum treated with the measles toxin, can be used in both preventive and curative treatment of measles.

The triumph of medical science over diphtheria and scarlet fever, both of which diseases are now capable of being controlled, was accomplished by similar steps and methods.

The new measles discovery is in accord with similar results obtained by Drs. G. F. and Gladys H. Dick in Chicago in 1924 in studies on scarlet fever. It appears, according to medical authorities, that in some of their many forms streptococci are accountable for a variety of diseases, besides being able to induce general blood poisoning.

Blood serum from convalescent measles patients has been in current use with some degree of success as a means of prevention with children that have alreaiy been exposed.

Now schools should not be closed when measles are prevalent, according to Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, chairman of the division of medical science of the National Research Council, whose son, Dr. Henry F. Vaughan, health commissioner of Detroit, has been concerned in the research on measles toxin. Every child, he said, should be inspected daily because a skilled physician is able in the majority of instances to detect this disease in the pre-eruptive stage. When this is done the child should be sent home andput to bed and exposed children should be treated with the convalescent serum.

Uncomplicated measles is not highly fatal but it pre-disposes to virulent pneumonia. One attack of measles gives lasting immunity while adults who have not had the disease are quite as susceptible as children. The younger the child, however, the more fatal is the disease, the death rate being highest among those under one year of age.

GREATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT TO UNEARTH ANCIENT ATHENS

The greatest archaeological venture of all history is about to begin. The ancient agora or civic center of Athens is to be unearthed.

Millions of dollars are to be spent, thousands of Athenians will leave their present homes for new residences, thousands of laborers are to be kept at work excavating for some fifty years, and two generations of archaeologists are to explore and study the seat of the greatest civilization of the classical world.

America with the cooperation of the Greek Government will sponsor this ambitious undertaking. Prof. R. V. D. Magoffin, president of Archaeological Institute of America, now en route to Athens, in a special statement prepared for Science Service explains, as follows, the archaeological opportunity that is now to be realized:

Rumors of the willingness of the Greek Government to allow some foreign government or agency to excavate the ancient agora, or civic center of Athens, set the archaeological world agog with excitement, The scientific importance of such an excavation was stupendous, and the hopes of finding many objects of value, as well as of interest, were almost certain of realization. Other nations which might well have expected to win such a concession, magnanimously stopped aside and let it, be understood that they favored having the offer made to the United States of America.

The acceptance of that offer by the Greek Government to the United States through the American School of Classical Studies in Athens was announced last year by Prof. Edward Capps, chairman of the managing committee of that school. At that time it was understood that is the United States would pay for the houses, which would be demolished and for the work of excavation, and that the Greek Govern ment would pay for the land which should be expropriated. A short time ago it was understood that a modification of the Greek side of the agreement would be made because of the continued financial difficulties there. This will probably be only